(c) and (d) Some representations have been received against privatization/cooperativization of showrooms and the Hindustan Coir Factory which are under consideration of the Government.

Effect of nuclear test

†*726. DR. PRABHATHAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether nuclear test leads to dangerous effects on nature and environment;

(b) the likely ill effects as a result thereof; and

(c) whether such tests can be undertaken at other places beside Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Fully contained underground nuclear tests as conducted by India have no dangerous effects on nature or the environment.

(b) does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Such tests can be undertaken only at those places which fulfil certain attributes with respect to properties of rock strata, geohydrology, isolation of the place from populated area etc.

Tariff for ILD Calls

*727. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has approved tariff for some of the private companies for the International Long Distance calls;

(b) if so, the tariffs as approved by TRAI;

(c) the private companies which have been granted ISD licence;

(d) whether the revised tariff has been introduced by these companies; and

(e) if so, from which date?

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†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) TRAI has intimated the following tariff in Rupees per minute, as approved,1or three private companies:

Country Category		Name of the private companies				
		Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL)		Bharti Telesonic Limited (BTSOL)		Data Access (India) Limited
		Peak	Off-Peak	Peak	Off-Peak	Peak
Slab-I	SAARC and other neighbouring countries	21.6	18.95	21.18	18.00	21.18
Stab-It	Countries in Africa, Europe, Gulf, Asia and Oceania	31.3	27.69	24.00	21.18	24.00
Slab-Ill	All countries in American Continent & other places in Western Hemisphere	40.00	36.00	24.00	21.18	24.00

(i) The Off-peak hours in a day are as follows:

Country Group/Region	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited	Bharati Telesonic Limited	Data Access Limited
SAARC and other neighbouring countries	0000-0800 & 1900-2400	0000-0800 & 1900-2400	No off-peak tariff. Peak tariff is applicable for all 24 hours.
Countries in Africa, Gulf, Asia and Oceania Europe	0000-1100 & 2200-2400 0000-1100 & 2200-2400	0000-0800 & 1900-2400 0000-1100 & 2200-2400	
All countries in American Continent & other places in Western Hemisphere	0000-0600 & 1100-1800	0000-0600 & 1100-1800	

(ii) In respect of VSNL and BTSOL, all Sundays & three national holidays (26th January, 15th August & 2nd October) are Off-Peak hours during the whole 24 hours of the day.

(c) At present following four companies have been granted ILD licence:

(i) Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited. (VSNL)

(ii) Reliance Communications Limited

(iii) BhartiTelesonic Limited

(iv) Data Access (India) Limited

(d) and (e) VSNL has introduced the revised tariff w.e.f. 01.04.2002. The remaining three companies are yet to commence the services.

Registered Institutions Under IT. Industry

†*728. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of registered institutions under IT Industry has been continously increasing during the past years;

(b) if so, the number of such institutions during the period, 1995 to 2000, State-wise;

(c) the States where these institutions were set up; and

(d) the capital invested in these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.The number of software units registered with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) during 1995 and 2000 were as follows:

Year	No. of Units
1995-96	521
2000-01	6652

†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.